

**From:** Fredricks, Bill  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 12/6/01 12:03pm  
**Subject:** you're letting us down

I'm sorry to say that it appears that the DOJ is letting us down. We need you to act on the principles embodied in our laws and not let the letters of the law be twisted to mean something else. The DOJ has a ruling that Microsoft is guilty of monopolistic practices. Act on that. Perhaps you are listening to much to the noisy minority. Rest assured that the majority of our citizens will stand behind a soundly principled resolution and see through all resolutions that are based on shaky reasoning.

It is true that the public is probably uninformed of the issues and rulings with the reasoning behind each. Few really have the time to delve into all of the facts. But your department does and has. We, the people, have delegated that task to you. Please don't compromise that faith that has been entrusted to you.

I have heard it said that part of the settlement is for Microsoft to provide computers to needy and poor school systems. This idea has some good elements but also a dark side. I'm sure that Microsoft, aside from a little whining, readily accepted this proposal. They could see, as you should, that there is a tremendous eventual benefit for them. If in fact they have to be punished, to be punished in such a way that will reap future, perhaps staggering, benefits is very acceptable, eh? It's a little like punishing your child by forcing them to contribute to their savings account. They don't like that their working funds are cut but they also know that one day they will be able to cash in on what has been saved. A true punishment for the child, especially if they took that money from someone else, would be to have them pay back twice what they took.

So what will it be then, a savings account or a punishment?

Bill Fredricks

-----

bfredricks@gosps.com

703.797.7858  
703.592.7128 (cell)  
703.922.1988 (home)

-----